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Why Race Matters



Synopsis

Michael Levin's 1997 masterpiece quickly became a classic, and just as quickly went out of print. Used copies of the hardcover edition sold for up to \$500.00! New Century Foundation secured the publishing rights, and now offers this affordable electronic edition. It includes every word of the original, plus a new foreword by Jared Taylor, editor of American Renaissance.

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Customer Reviews

The true virtue of this book, besides its candor, is its careful analysis of all aspects of racial difference. Some books focus solely on the facts regarding racial differences in intelligence without presenting evidence detailing the effects these differences have on lived social reality. The fact that blacks do not on average possess the same level of intelligence as whites or Asians is so well established by extensive documentation in statistical analysis, recorded social phenomena, and the empirical witness of experience that the burden of proof clearly rests on egalitarians. Levin wisely does not reinvent the wheel, but instead provides a masterly summary of the evidence and moves on to a much more controversial, but equally well-grounded conclusion: that intelligence does not

just predict test scores, academic grades and career attainment, but it also has important implications for personality traits and moral codes. Our moral choices, and the standards of morality in our culture, are dictated by many factors which depend upon intelligence. As Levin argues, intelligence has a clear relationship with the ability to make abstract plans for the future. Such traits as honesty, which are central to our cultural norms of morality, are directly correlated with our ability to plan. Everyone knows that in every interpersonal exchange which involves trust, such as the sale of goods and the provision of services, the person who acts dishonestly can usually achieve a short term advantage through deception or violence. Intelligent persons, who have a correspondingly abstract and longer-term grasp of social interaction, will normally choose honesty - a response which will facilitate continued interactions, and thus mutually beneficial transactions.

The subject of race, the role of intelligence, and the differences that exist between racial groups in their intellectual capacity have been a major source of friction for most of America's national history. Levin may not be politically popular in some circles, but his book proves the old adage that "There is nothing as immovable nor as powerful as the truth." Even when the truth may be unpleasant. While much of this book is taken up with statistical tables and analysis thereof, it illustrates the painstaking care that Levin has gone to in an effort to establish his major thesis. In a nutshell (to borrow a cliché), Levin's thesis is that America is not a land of racists and white supremacists who have colluded to suppress other groups or deny them equal opportunity. Rather, Americans have not faced up to the fact that in a nation and era when one's ability to prosper is increasingly tied to intelligence and mental abilities, the mental differences between racial groups are major determinants of well being (to no less an extent than physical abilities are in athletics). Levin concludes, with a huge amount of scientific data to back him up, that black failure is almost entirely due to genetic factors that cause blacks to be less intelligent than whites. Moreover, he notes that whites are in danger of being displaced by Chinese and other Asians if they persist in dysgenic breeding (where the most educated and intelligent whites have children at below reproduction rates, while the breeding of less intelligent ones is heavily subsidized by government programs).

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